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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/766,046	01/19/2001	Jamal Ramdani	JG00069	9615

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
1940 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

BAUMEISTER, BRADLEY W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2815

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/766,046

Applicant(s)

RAMDANI ET AL.

Examiner

B. William Baumeister

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-15 and 43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7.16.3/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election with traverse of invention 1A in the response filed 12/16/2003 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the restriction was insufficient in that it did not set why the proposed alternatives would work or be materially different so as to require distinct searches. This is not found persuasive because the restriction requirement did, in fact, explain the bases of the restriction and explain why the respective tests for restriction were satisfied.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. The indicated allowability of claim 16 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Suzuki '578. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

3. Claim 43 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and subject to compliance with the double-patenting requirement set forth hereinbelow.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: a search of the relevant prior art failed to disclose or reasonably suggest such a structure wherein a monocrystalline III-N device is formed of an amorphous oxide of any of the compositions set forth in the Markush group of claim 43.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki '578. Suzuki discloses monolithically integrated devices such as GaN-based light emitters (e.g., col. 9 and FIG 16, depicted as element 24) formed on a monocrystalline Si substrate 21 by means of a crystalline MgAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> accommodating buffer layer 22. An optional amorphous buffer layer may be interposed between the crystalline buffer and the Si substrate (col. 9, lines 58-62).

a. The product-by-process language of claims 1 and 2 does not structurally distinguish the final structure of the present invention as claimed from the Suzuki structure.

b. The claims are not anticipated because Suzuki does not expressly state that the overlying III-N layer have a thickness of about 20-50 angstroms. However, the claims do not require that the III-N layer having the thickness of about 20-50 angstroms be formed in contact with the underlying amorphous layer. Since the 20-50 angstrom III-N layer can be located anywhere within a plurality of overlying III-N layers, the limitation reads on a layer such as a III-N quantum well or quantum barrier which were conventionally formed in the active region of a III-N light emitter and conventionally had thicknesses on this order of magnitude to allow quantum tunneling. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have formed a III-N device as taught by Suzuki so as to specifically have a MQW active region with a III-N layer having this order of thickness because Suzuki teaches that

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the III-N device formed may be a laser (e.g., col. 16, lines 18-25) and because it was convention to provide III-N lasers with a MQW active layer construction.

### ***Double Patenting***

7. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. **The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.**

8. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

9. 37 CFR 1.78(b) provides that when two or more applications filed by the same applicant contain conflicting claims, elimination of such claims from all but one application may be required in the absence of good and sufficient reason for their retention during pendency in more than one application.

10. Double-patenting conflicts exist between claims of the issued patents and co-pending applications of the bulk-filing project, including the present application.

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11. The following claim comparisons are examples of conflicts between three of the copending applications:

S.N. 09/908,892: claim 11

A process for fabricating a semiconductor structure comprising:

- providing a monocrystalline silicon substrate;
- depositing a monocrystalline perovskite oxide film overlying the monocrystalline silicon substrate, the film having a thickness less than a thickness of the material that would result in strain-induced defects;
- forming an amorphous oxide interface layer containing at least silicon and oxygen at an interface between the monocrystalline perovskite oxide film and the monocrystalline silicon substrate;
- epitaxially forming a layer of intermetallic compound overlaying the monocrystalline perovskite oxide film; and
- epitaxially forming a monocrystalline compound semiconductor layer overlying the layer of intermetallic compound.

S.N. 09/755,340: claims 17, 19 and 20:

[Claim 17] A process for fabricating a semiconductor structure comprising the steps of:

- providing a monocrystalline substrate;
- epitaxially growing (an) accommodating buffer layer overlying the monocrystalline substrate;
- forming an amorphous layer on the monocrystalline substrate during the growth of the accommodating buffer layer; and
- forming a monocrystalline conductive layer over the accommodating buffer layer;

[Claim 19] epitaxially growing an additional monocrystalline layer above the monocrystalline conductive layer;

[Claim 20] wherein the step of [claim 19] includes growing a semiconductor material layer.

S.N. 09/986,024: claim 169:

A process for fabricating a semiconductor structure comprising:

- providing a monocrystalline silicon substrate;
- depositing a monocrystalline perovskite oxide film overlying the monocrystalline silicon substrate, the film having a thickness less than a thickness of the material that would result in strain-induced defects;
- forming an amorphous oxide interface layer containing at least silicon and oxygen at an interface between the monocrystalline perovskite oxide film and the monocrystalline silicon substrate; and
- epitaxially forming a monocrystalline compound semiconductor layer overlying the monocrystalline perovskite oxide film.

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12. A comparison of the claims shows that all three applications set forth the method steps of providing a monocrystalline substrate; an accommodating buffer (or perovskite) layer; an amorphous oxide interface therebetween; and at least a monocrystalline semiconductor layer over the buffer/perovskite. The respective sets of claims are not identical because:

a. Claims 17, 19 and 20 of the '340 application are broader than claim 11 of the '892 application because the '340 claims do not further require that the monocrystalline substrate be Si; that the amorphous oxide interface layer also contain silicon; that the accommodating buffer specifically be a monocrystalline perovskite; that the conductive layer specifically be an intermetallic compound; nor that the monocrystalline semiconductor layer be a compound monocrystalline semiconductor layer.

b. Claim 169 of the '024 application is broader than claim 11 of the '892 application because the 1024 claim does not require the additional presence of the epitaxially grown intermetallic compound layer.

13. Accordingly, claims 17, 19 and 20 of the '340 application are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 11 of the copending '892 application. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claim 11 of the '892 application anticipates claims 17, 19 and 20 of the '340 application as explained above. See e.g., In re Berg, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); In re Goodman, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); In re Longi, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985) for the proposition that an obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the

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conflicting claims are not identical, but an examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

14. Similarly, claim 169 of the '024 application is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 11 of the copending '892 application. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claim 11 of the '892 application anticipates claim 169 of the '024 application as explained above. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

15. While not specifically addressed herein, similar double-patenting conflicts also exist between the product claims of various applications as well. Moreover, while the Office has a long established policy of generally requiring restrictions between semiconductor product claims (class 257) and method claims (class 438) in a given application, this policy does not negate Applicant's responsibility for ensuring that no conflicts exist between those applications presenting product claims and those applications presenting method claims. This is because it is also well-established agency policy that restricted product and method claims may be subject to rejoinder during the course of prosecution. See MPEP 821.04.



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16. While it is true that the Examiner has the burden to show how a rejection is specifically applied to each claim, the exemplary showing with respect to the claims individually discussed below establishes a *prima facie* showing of the unpatentability of the instant claims and is sufficient to give the applicant fair notice of how the rejection is applied to each and every other claim. Further, an analysis of all of the claims in the approximately 330 related applications would be an extreme burden on the Office requiring millions of claim comparisons. Accordingly, the Office is shifting the burden to the applicants to show, if they can, patentable distinctions between the instant claims and those of the other applications and patents. Specifically, in order to resolve the conflict between applications, applicant is required to:

- (1) file terminal disclaimers in each of the related, applications terminally disclaiming each of the other approximately 330 applications;
- (2) provide a statement attesting to the fact that all claims in the approximately 330 applications have been reviewed by applicant and that no conflicting claims exists between the applications. Applicant should provide all relevant factual information including the specific steps taken to insure that no conflicting claims exist between the applications, or;
- (3) resolve all conflicts between the claims in the above identified approximately 330 applications by identifying how all the claims in the instant application are distinct and separate inventions from all of the claims in all of the other approximately 330 identified applications. Note: the examples provided below are merely illustrative of the overall problem. Only addressing/correcting the specifically identified conflicts would not satisfy the requirement.

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17. Further, due Applicant's better familiarity with the related applications, Applicant now has the burden of confirming that the list of related bulk-filing applications is accurate and complete, or must take appropriate actions to assure that no such conflicts exist in any other applications that have been inadvertently omitted from the list, but do in fact possess related subject matter.

Applicant is reminded that obviousness-type double patenting analysis entails a two-step process: (1) the claims of this application and the other approximately 330 applications must be construed; and (2) the claims of this application must be compared with the claims of the other applications to determine whether the differences in subject matter between the two claims render the claims patentably distinct. See Georgia Pacific Com. v. United States Gypsum Co., 195 F.3d 1322, 1326, 52 USPQ2d 1590, 1593 (Fed. Cir. 1999), and General Foods Corp. v. Studiengesellschaft Kolzle, 972 F.2d 1272, 1279, 23 USPQ2d 1839, 1844 (Fed. Cir. 1992). As the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals (CCPA) explained: "the fundamental reason for the rule [against "double patenting"] *is to prevent unjustified timewise extension of the right to exclude* granted by a patent no matter how the extension is brought about." In re Van Ornum, 686 F.2d 937, 943-44, 214 USPQ 761, 766 (CCPA 1982) (brackets and emphasis in the original) (quoting In re Schneller, 397 F.2d 350, 354, 158 USPQ 210, 214 (CCPA 1968)).

**Failure to comply with the above requirement will result in abandonment of the application. However, the requirement will be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter has been indicated by the examiner.**

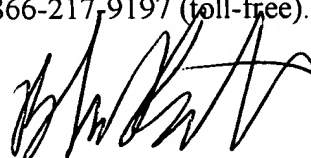
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***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to B. William Baumeister whose telephone number is (571) 272-1722. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on (571) 272-1664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**B. WILLIAM BAUMEISTER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

B. William Baumeister  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2815

March 19, 2004